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U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DIST. TENN.

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V.

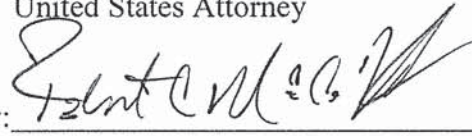
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Defendants.

The United States' investigation and evaluation of the *qui tam* allegations currently remains ongoing. Given the current status, counsel for the United States expects to need at least an additional sixty (60) days to conclude the investigation sufficiently to enable counsel to make a recommendation regarding intervention, and to obtain the necessary authorizations and approvals to file a notice of election with the Court. To the extent that the Court may wish to consider any further information regarding the progress of the investigation, the United States respectfully requests that the Court permit the government to present such information through *ex parte* submissions at an *in camera* hearing.

Respectfully submitted,  
WILLIAM C. KILLIAN  
United States Attorney

By:



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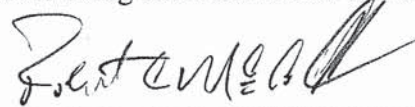
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#### **CERTIFICATE REGARDING SERVICE**

I hereby certify that this *Ex Parte* Status Report is being filed under seal and has not been served on any other party to this action.



Robert C. McConkey, III

Assistant U.S. Attorney